

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

### IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 7, line 27 through page 8, line 6, please replace the original paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

-- Primers and probes were designed to specifically amplify the ubiquitous gene of interest, the human Telomerase Reverse Transcriptase (hTERT) single copy gene mapped on 5p15.33. The aplicon size of the hTERT gene was 98 bp (position 13059-13156, of the Genbank as accession no AF128893). The sequences of the primers and of the probe were the following: primer forward: 5'- GGC ACA CGT GGC TTT TCG-3'(SEQ ID NO: 1); primer reverse: 5'- GGT GAA CCT CGT AAG TTT ATG CAA-3'(SEQ ID NO: 2); probe: VIC5'-TCA GGA CGT CGA GTG GAC ACG GTG-3'(SEQ ID NO: 3) TAMRA. --